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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Poland

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SUBJECT

Polish and Soviet Naval Bases
at Swinoujscie (Swinemunde)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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3511. General information on the area

- a. The two islands of Wolin and Uznam are so situated as to form a barrier at the entrance of the Bay of Szczecin (Stettin). The island of Wolin is now under Polish control and the area of Uznam is divided, as the Polish-Soviet German boundary passes through the area.
- b. At the close of the war the naval base was equipped to make minor repairs and possessed large stores of general military supplies, coastal and harbor fortifications, ammunition, supplies, and troop facilities. At the time of the German capitulation the entire area fell to the Russians in an almost undamaged condition. Immediately upon occupation the Russians plundered and dismantled everything to be sent to Russia. In 1947 this policy was halted and the area was gradually turned over to the Poles. Now there are two naval bases in the area, one under Polish control and the other under complete Russian authority. Each base has its own limits, separate command, facilities, etc.

2. Polish Naval Base - Swinoujscie (Swinemunde)

- a. The Polish garrison consists of about 400 Polish officers, sailors, and civilians. Of this number 240 men have been provided military barracks, and 160 officers, NCO's, clerks, and skilled workers have been provided private living quarters. Of the garrison group of 240, about 125 comprise the naval guard company, 45 the Signal Platoon, and about 70 men the various ships' crews.
- b. The following officers are in command of the Polish base:
 - 1) Colonel Marian Wojciech - Base Commander. He is not a Communist, but has pledged his loyalty to the régime. However, he is evidently not completely trusted, since he was refused permission to go to Leningrad for special submarine training during 1948.
 - 2) Lt. Colonel Henryk Dramski - Deputy Commander, Base Politruk (Political Education Officer), and an active Communist.

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- 3) Lt. Colonel Franciszek Kraszewski - Chief of Staff for the base area. He is a Polish naval officer with Communist sympathies.
- 4) Colonel Eligiusz Ceceniowski - Port Commander. He is a former Polish naval officer who served with the Polish Navy in England during the war and returned to Poland in 1946. He is disillusioned about Communists, and it is believed he will "jump off" if given an opportunity.
- 5) Captain Jan Brzeski - Village Commander. He is a former NCO of the pre-war Polish Army.

c. Polish naval craft in the harbor include:

- 1) one heavy gunboat, the Okoni, crew of 16 men
- 2) two landing craft, formerly American, identified as KM-21 and KM-22, and one of German type DB-10. The first two have a crew of five, and the DB-10 has a crew of ten.
- 3) one heavy German tug, Pioneer (sic)
- 4) two motor launches and numerous small craft.

3. Soviet Naval Base - Swinoujscie

- a. The Soviet garrison here is about 900 men. Permanently stationed floating units include only 4 to 6 gunboats, 8 to 12 high speed patrol boats, 6 tugs, and 6 trawlers for miscellaneous use. Larger units such as destroyers, submarines, and minesweepers make frequent visits but only for a short time or for minor repairs.
- b. The shipyard facilities include a dry dock with a capacity of 500 tons and also equipment to make normal repairs on destroyers, submarines, and minesweepers. Equipment is also being used to build up the effectiveness of the AA defense of the area. Currently about 700 Germans are employed in the area, among them a number known to be engineers and technicians. During May 1949, 3 submarines were being repaired here. A former German U-boat was completed in early May 1949. Two allegedly former French U-boats are undergoing repair - similar to the Polish U-boat "Sep". These submarines are believed to be the Polish submarines "Rys" and "Zbik" which were interned in Sweden during the war but were returned in November 1945 to the Polish Government.
- c. The Soviets have recently succeeded in raising two wrecked vessels in the area with the intention of reconstructing them for service. One of these vessels is the German ship Cordillera, 12,055 tons, and an unidentified vessel of about 3,000 tons. These are soon to be removed to Leningrad.
- d. Soviet fortifications are described as follows:
 - 1) About 100 Soviet coastal and AA guns have been placed in the area. They are apparently not well organized or equipped with modern range finders, communications system, etc.
 - 2) About 60 concrete bunkers contain large supplies of ammunition for artillery, also marine mines, and torpedoes.
 - 3) There is one small airfield with adequate facilities for the approximately 40 fighter planes being kept there.

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- 4) Eight German V-1 ramps are being maintained in serviceable condition. Rockets were fired here in cooperation with the German specialists during 1946. The present status of these facilities and intentions regarding them are unknown.
- 5) The Russian area² is almost entirely isolated; therefore the procurement of any additional details is nearly impossible.

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 Comment: Presumably the Russian part of Usedom/Uznam is meant.

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